

closely with us, he has earned our respect and affection.

Most importantly, thanks to diplomats like Ambassador Chen, Taiwan and the United States are truly friends and our relationship is stronger now than at any other time. Having visited Taiwan myself, I have seen how much the Ambassador's country has been able to benefit from better relations, and I'm sure that his work has made Taiwan a better place.

Mr. Speaker, as Ambassador Chen concludes his tour of duty in Washington and his returning to Taipei, I bid him a fond farewell and wish him all the best. He has been a true friend, a man of principle and integrity, and we will surely miss him.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize those heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. There is no tribute too great that we can offer these courageous men and women.

These men and women join a lengthy list of heroes from the 10th District of Virginia who have fought and died so that others might be free. Starting with the French and Indian War before our nation was formed to those serving today in hostile environments in the War on Terrorism, our district has proudly served the Armed Forces of the United States.

I take this opportunity today not only to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice but to honor the loved ones they left behind and let them know that this nation has not forgotten the pain they must endure.

The fallen lived and died with a nobility of purpose which those of us left behind have a sacred duty to carry on. Each one of us must fight to keep this nation free and worthy of sacrifice. There is no greater love for humanity than to give one's life for the freedom we all cherish.

I ask that everyone pray for the men and women in uniform who are in harm's way in Iraq, in Afghanistan and other parts of the world where we have a military presence. They need and deserve our support.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there are no words that can lessen the intensity of families' grief and profound loss after learning that a son, daughter, or relative serving in the Armed Forces has fallen in the line of duty. I have recently written to five central Ohio families who have suffered such a loss as Part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and each time it weighs heavily on my heart.

Army Pfc. Kevin Ott, Army Pfc. Branden Oberleitner, Pfc. Nicholas Zimmer, Army

Staff Sgt. Aaron Reese, and Army Master Sgt. George Fernandez were the truest of all patriots. These soldiers will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved them, and their families are in my thoughts and prayers.

The unique sacrifice that fallen soldiers share, giving their lives for the development and protection of freedom, place them among those in our history who will be remembered for dedicating themselves to the greatest of all ideals that we as Americans hold dear.

America is eternally grateful to these and all of our soldiers for their courageous and dedicated service to our great nation and their valor in bringing freedom to the Iraqi and Afghani people. They have not only worked to bring liberation and justice to these oppressed people, but have also made America safer from the threat of terrorism by rooting out evil where it is hiding around the globe. I am extremely impressed by the poise and sense of duty and purpose with which all our young men and women in the armed forces conduct themselves. Their resolve to finish the job, because it means doing the right thing for the world even in the face of making the ultimate sacrifice, is truly inspiring.

This Memorial Day, I will reflect on the sacrifices made by these soldiers and the long list of men and women who viewed their lives as subject to the preservation of liberty. May God bless our troops, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF RAMA MAE GROVES STEEN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Rama Mae Groves Steen; and

Whereas, Rama Mae Groves Steen was a loving sister, daughter, aunt, and wife to the members of her family. Rama Mae was a member of the Alpha Rho Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International of Guernsey and Noble County, a National Teachers Honorary, life member of the Ohio retired Teachers Association, Caldwell Woman's Literary Club, Order of the Eastern Star, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Rosa Shrine 8 of Zanesville; and

Whereas, Rama Mae Groves Steen served in the past as chairman of the Central and Executive Committees of Noble County Republican Party, Noble County Republican Woman's Club; and

Whereas, Rama Mae Groves Steen will certainly be remembered by all those who knew her because of her loving nature towards her family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which she gave to others will stand as a monument to a truly fine person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her; and

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Rama Mae Groves Steen.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today still afraid for our Nation's security. Not because of terror alerts, but because our borders remain porous. The enforcement of our immigration policy is impotent, resulting in a continued flood of illegal immigrants across our borders.

It is time for the federal government to stop letting unchecked mass immigration undermine the wages, safety, and benefits in one occupation after another. It is time for the federal government to moderate immigration and to treat American workers, citizen and immigrant, with the respect they deserve.

Our constituents did not elect us to help cheapen the quality of their lives by importing foreign workers at six to eight times the historical average. There is no getting around the fact that when we cheapen labor with unchecked illegal immigration, we cheapen our neighbors, both citizens and immigrants alike.

If we moderate immigration in the context of an historical average, we will remain the most open society in the world, and begin to halt America's slide from a middle class, to a poverty class, society.

I call on my colleagues to join me in working to reform our immigration policies and to halt the cheapening of America's citizen and immigrant workers. Without real immigration reform, our borders will not be safe and our citizens will be at risk.

RECOGNIZING MARO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize MARO Employment and Training Association. This organization will be celebrating thirty years of community service in June 2004. MARO Employment and Training Association represents 60 not-for-profit community organizations, providing vocational training, employment and support services for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment and community access.

MARO Employment and Training Association assists members by sharing information with community organizations regarding how to serve people with a number of varying disabilities. The group works on both the state and federal level to increase opportunities for people with barriers to employment. Members are offered affordable Workers' Compensation Insurance and prescription drug coverage through self-insured programs as well as an array of networking opportunities.

MARO Employment and Training Association works together with the Michigan Community Mental Health agencies, the Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Works! agencies, the Michigan Department of Corrections, the Michigan Commission for the Blind, and with local schools.

MARO Employment and Training Association provides a critically important service. The work the organization does is respected throughout the state and it has proven to be a great asset in Michigan for 30 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing MARO Employment and Training Association for the service and opportunities the organization has provided for Michigan citizens.

HONORING AMBASSADOR C.J.
CHEN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleagues in honoring a unique man and a graceful diplomat.

After 4 years of exemplary service as the head representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), the quasi-embassy of the Republic of China (ROC), Ambassador C.J. Chen is returning to Taiwan. In fact, since joining his country's foreign service 37 years ago, Ambassador Chen has continuously been involved with U.S.-Taiwan relations in his many job assignments both in Taiwan and in the United States.

In 1979 when the United States severed diplomatic relations with Taipei and recognized Beijing, Ambassador Chen was then working in Taiwan's embassy in Washington. He spent days and nights negotiating and communicating with U.S. government officials and lawmakers in helping draft the Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8). Signed into law on April 10, 1979, this important legislation has enabled Taiwan to grow both economically and politically during the last quarter century.

In subsequent years, Ambassador Chen has played many key roles in Taiwan's foreign ministry. He has encouraged the U.S. to act as a balancer and facilitator in handling its relations with both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (PROC). In addition, Ambassador Chen and other leaders in Taiwan have been successful in urging the U.S. to continue to provide Taiwan with military aid necessary for its self-defense.

During the last 4 years, Ambassador Chen has aimed to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations which are now at their highest point since 1979. While there have been no major changes in U.S. policy toward either side of the Taiwan strait recently, the U.S. stance toward Taiwan has improved significantly, largely due to Taiwan's democratic government.

In addition to the Bush Administration's goodwill towards Taiwan, support on Capitol Hill continues to grow. Since the start of the 108th Congress, both the House and Senate have introduced and/or passed various resolutions relating to Taiwan including support for: (1) Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO); (2) A U.S.-Taiwan free trade agreement and; (3) Taiwan's security. Ambassador Chen has played a critical role in building support for each and every one of these resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, while Ambassador Chen is indeed leaving Washington, I have no doubt that he will continue to contribute to the enhancement of U.S.-Taiwan relations in the future. I wish C.J. and his wife Yolanda all the best.

They will be greatly missed here in Washington.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR AND THE KICK-OFF OF THE CELEBRATION

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War and the commemorative activities planned to revisit this important time in our Country's history.

As a former soldier, I believe that remembering and recognizing the bravery and courage of those who fought before us is essential to keeping history alive and fully appreciating the freedom we now enjoy. Today, our troops are faced with the conflict in Iraq. As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War, let us remember that it is through the bravery of the young men in Iraq that there will be a new country, new government, and new opportunities, much like the result of the French and Indian War 250 years ago.

Beginning in 1754, the French and Indian War changed everything. The political climate during and after the war directly resulted in the American Revolution and the creation of the United States as an independent nation. The war also gave America its first introduction to George Washington, the beginning of a friendship that would help to build this great Nation.

Laura Fisher, the Executive Director of the French and Indian War 250, Inc., along with former Pennsylvania First Lady Michele Ridge, National Co-Chair of the French and Indian War Advisory Committee, and Chuck Queenan, Chairman of the Board of the French and Indian War 250, Inc., have helped to build the national commemoration of the French and Indian War from a regional event to a multi-state initiative that spans a twenty-state area from Maine to South Carolina.

Official commemoration activities began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 16-18, 2004, at the historic Point Park. The Point was the site of Fort Duquesne, later Fort Pitt, and one of the most sought after locations thanks to the accessibility of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers.

The next several years will commemorate the anniversary through large-scale re-enactments at historic sites, exhibitions of rare historical artifacts, educational symposia and a major public television series, and I encourage my colleagues and their constituents to participate in remembering some of the most important milestones and sacrifices made leading to America's founding.

The National Governor's Association meeting held recently in Washington, D.C., was a great victory for the French and Indian War 250th Anniversary as several of the nation's governors reaffirmed their support of the importance of the commemoration by signing their name to the French and Indian War Memorandum of Understanding. I applaud Governor Ed Rendell of my state of Pennsylvania, and all the Governors who have pledged their continued commitment to devel-

oping programs to attract and educate visitors about the rich heritage and contribution that each state made during this era of conflict.

Governors who signed the Memorandum of Understanding have pledged to continue working to create French and Indian War trails, new marketing strategies to inform the public of this exciting initiative and educational programs to aid teachers in the classroom.

In commemoration of the French and Indian War's 250th anniversary celebration and the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the importance of this celebration and the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made in battle, I respectfully request that the French and Indian War Memorandum of Understanding be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I thank the Speaker and I yield the floor.

Memorandum of understanding between the State of Connecticut, the State of Delaware, the State of Illinois, the State of Indiana, the State of Maine, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Michigan, the State of New Hampshire, the State of New Jersey, the State of New York, the State of North Carolina, the State of Ohio, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Rhode Island, the State of South Carolina, the State of Tennessee, the State of Vermont, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of West Virginia, and War for Empire, Inc d/b/a French and Indian War 250, Inc.

The following represents an understanding between the State of Connecticut, the State of Delaware, the State of Illinois, the State of Indiana, the State of Maine, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Michigan, the State of New Hampshire, the State of New Jersey, the State of New York, the State of North Carolina, the State of Ohio, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Rhode Island, the State of South Carolina, the State of Tennessee, the State of Vermont, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of West Virginia (hereinafter "the States") and War for Empire, Inc., d/b/a French and Indian War 250, Inc. (hereinafter "French and Indian War 250").

Whereas, the States represent the geographical area in which the French and Indian War historical sites are located and French and Indian War 250 represents the official commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War.

Whereas, the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War is fast approaching, spanning the years from 2004 to 2010, and the opportunity exists to connect the unparalleled collection of historic sites in these States.

Whereas, by developing a common storyline, educational materials and marketing strategies, these important, but mostly rural, sites in the States will be given new visibility.

Whereas, the occasion of this major anniversary will serve as a springboard in the States for tourism, education and economic development as we develop new programs and projects to attract visitors, educate the general public about the lasting importance of this conflict, and elevate this regional story to national prominence.

Whereas, commemorative plans revolve around four basic goals: to improve and connect the battle sites, both regionally and nationally; to create programming to attract visitors and educate the public; to stage commemorative events nationwide over the life of